

WFDSS National Fire Management Units Methodology Documentation

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General Information

Shapefile Filename: FMU_national_mmddyyyy (date of update)

Source: Data received from local field units

Publication Date: December 4, 2009

Extent: US national

Currency: Updated at the end of each month

Projection: GCS, NAD 83

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the methodology used in the development of the Fire Management Unit (FMU) data layer for the five Federal Wildland Fire Agencies for WFDSS.

Overview

The National FMU layer is being compiled by the WFDSS GIS team in an effort to provide a query able layer in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS). This layer undergoes regular updates based on data that are sent to the team from the field. The layer spatially represents the areas outlined in the Land/Resource Management Plan (LRMP) or Fire Management Plan. According to NWCG, these areas are defined as:

“A land management area definable by objectives, management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, major fire regime groups, etc. that set it apart from the characteristics of an adjacent FMU. The FMU may have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.”

According to *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* dated February 13, 2009 respective definitions are as follows

Land/Resource Management Plan (L/RMP):

“A document prepared with public participation and approved by an agency administrator that provides general guidance and direction for the land and resource management activities for an administrative area. The L/RMP identifies the need for fire’s role in a particular area and for specific benefit. The objectives in the L/RMP provide the basis for the development of fire management objectives and the fire management program in the designated area.”

Fire Management Plan (FMP):

“A plan that identifies and integrates all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved land/resource management plans. It defines a program to manage wildland fires (wildfire and prescribed fire). The plan is supplemented by operational plans, including but not limited to preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch

plans, prescribed fire burn plans and prevention plans. Fire Management Plan's assure that wildland fire management goals and components are coordinated."

The layer encompasses the lands for the five federal wildland fire agencies and is being compiled into an interagency layer for use within the WFDSS.

Data Input and Processing

Data are received from local units and compiled into a national layer. The data must follow a pre-established data standard that can be found at https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/Geospatial_data_std.pdf. The WFDSS data team loads data into the WFDSS on a regular basis and the person processing the data outlines a timeline for inclusion after the data are received from the field unit.

Attribution

FMU_Code
FMU_Description
NWCG_UNIT_ID

Project-Specific Use of Data

The WFDSS utilizes the national FMU layer as a query able layer in the system. When the user clicks a point on the intelligence map, or creates a planning area for an incident, the WFDSS utilizes the FMU layer to auto-populate certain fields within the system. This allows the user to readily view the strategic objectives and management requirements that are tied to the affected FMUs within the identified planning area, without having to do so manually. Because of this relationship between spatial and attribute data, the user must ensure that the FMU code listed in the spatial data is identical to the FMU code entered in the WFDSS for the strategic objective and/or management requirement.

Limitations

When analyzing these layers, it is apparent that there is some confusion between the FMUs being used in WFDSS and the FMUs being used in FPA. In some (although rare) cases these FMU boundaries are the same. In all cases the FMUs that should be used in WFDSS are those that are outlined in the Land/Resource Management Plan (LRMP) or Fire Management Plan. This distinction is often missed and the layer initially submitted must be corrected.

Updates to the existing national FMU layer occur frequently due either to changes in the management plan or mistakes found after the fact. This does not pose a significant problem with the national layer. The updates should be processed through the WFDSS data team (see Data Contacts section). Once the new layer is received by the data team the old data are replaced with the new and the layer is then re-loaded into the WFDSS. It is important to keep in mind that the strategic objectives and/or management requirements may have change when edits to the spatial data occur. Keeping this in mind the user must investigate the need to change the strategic objectives and/or management requirements previously typed into the WFDSS.

References

WFDSS

<http://wfdss.usgs.gov>

WFDSS FMU Data Standard

https://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/pdfs/Geospatial_data_std.pdf

WFDSS Data Download (download the current WFDSS FMU layer)

http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=222&mode=2&in_hi_userid=2&cached=true

Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, February 13, 2009

<http://www.nifc.gov/policies/guidance/GIFWFMP.pdf>

Data Contacts

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